



CONFIGURABLE DISPLAY OF WEB SITE CONTENT

5

Background Of The Invention

Field of the Invention

- 10 This invention generally relates to web site management. More specifically, the invention relates to methods and systems for changing pages of web sites.

Prior Art

- 15 The contents of web sites are commonly managed by teams that are responsible for what and how documents are displayed. The displaying of documents available on many web sites is very dynamic and often requires changes to the core application design in order to accommodate this dynamic nature. For example, in many web sites, documents can be displayed according to different sort orders, the content can be
20 displayed in single or double column format, and different text attributes such as type face and alignment may be used. Heretofore, making changes such as these required intervention by an application programmer.

Summary Of The invention

25

An object of this invention is to improve methods and systems for configuring web pages.

30

Another object of the present invention is to provide the content needed for a web page in a single configurable document that may be accessed and analyzed by a management application in order to determine the content for the web page.

A further object of the present invention is to allow a content manager to make in real time changes to a web page that previously may have taken an application developer hours or days to implement.

- 5 These and other objects are attained with a method and system of displaying data from a database onto a page. The database is provided with a view having data therein, and with a configuration document describing characteristics of the page. The database is also provided with a form for reading the configuration document, for retrieving data from the view, and for placing the data on the page as described in the configuration
10 document. A page address is formed from the names of the database and the form, and the page address is selected to display the data on the page.

- Preferably, a key is provided for locating the configuration documents, and this key may be provided when the page is accessed. Also, preferably, the view includes a
15 multitude of data sets and the configuration document includes a multitude of instruction sets for displaying data on the page, and the method further includes the steps of selecting one of the data sets and one of the instruction sets, and displaying the selected data set on said page in accordance with the selected instruction set. More specifically, the data sets and the instruction sets may be listed on the form, and the
20 step of selecting one of the data sets and one of the instruction sets preferably includes the step of identifying on the form the selected data sets and the selected instruction sets.

- Further benefits and advantages of the invention will become apparent from a
25 consideration of the following detailed description, given with reference to the accompanying drawings, which specify and show preferred embodiments of the invention.

30

Brief Description Of The Drawings

Figure 1 generally indicates a preferred embodiment of carrying out the present invention.

5

Figure 2 shows a screen from a dynamic view configuration document.

Figure 3 shows a screen from a dynamic view generation form.

10 Figure 4 illustrates a screen from a sorted database view.

Figure 5 depicts a screen from results on web.

Figure 6 shows a screen from changed configuration document.

15

Figure 7 shows a screen from changed results.

Detailed Description Of The Preferred Embodiments

20 With reference to Figure 1, the present invention relates to a method and system of displaying data from a database onto a page. The database is provided with a view having data therein, and with a configuration document describing characteristics of the page. The database is also provided with a form for reading the configuration document, for retrieving data from the view, and for placing the data on the page as
25 described in the configuration document. A page address is formed from the names of the database and the form, and the page address is selected to display the data on the page.

With the preferred embodiment of the invention, once the configuration document is
30 created, for example as shown in Figure 2, then a specific form is used, for example as

shown in Figure 3, that looks up values describing the information to display. This form may be accessed via a Uniform Resource Locator (URL). The program then looks up into the appropriate Notes view, for instance using the screen depicted in Figure 4, to get the content to display, resulting in a new web page, for example as illustrated in Figure 5.

If the attributes need to be changed, then the configuration document is modified and saved, for instance as illustrated in Figure 6. A page may be changed, as an example, to use two columns, adding a right column of data, with instructions to not include a view navigation. When the page is redisplayed, for example, as depicted in Figure 7, it changes automatically, without intervention from an application programmer.

The present invention significantly simplifies making changes to web pages. When a web page that incorporates the preferred embodiment of the invention is accessed, a key is passed as a part of the Uniform Resource Locator (URL). This key is then used to locate a configurable document describing the page content. The configuration data are analyzed and displayed accordingly.

There are several scenarios that may occur after analyzing the data. HTML data may be generated dynamically according to settings defined in the document. Additional documents may be embedded into the document requested. User defined data from the configuration document may be displayed directly. All of these changed can be examined and test in real time by the person generating the content by changing the configuration document, saving it, and displaying the results in a browser.

It may be noted that while the preferred embodiment of the invention uses a Lotus Notes application platform, other suitable application platforms may also be used in the practice of this invention.

While it is apparent that the invention herein disclosed is well calculated to fulfill the objects stated above, it will be appreciated that numerous modifications and embodiments may be devised by those skilled in the art, and it is intended that the appended claims cover all such modifications and embodiments as fall within the true
5 spirit and scope of the present invention.